

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6424

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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AMEMBASSY SOFIA

US MISSION BERLIN 59

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 8505

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, GR, XH

SUBJ: GREEK EMIGRES IN BLOCK COUNTRIES

BERLIN FOR GDR

1. LEGALIZATION OF GREEK COMMUNIST PARTY HAS PROMPTED PUBLIC DISCUSSION IN ATHENS ON WHETHER NEW CARMANLIS GOVERNMENT MAY TAKE LEGAL AND POLICY INITIATIVES TO FACILITATE RETURN OF GREEKS, MOSTLY LEFTISTS, WHO DEPARTED COUNTRY IN WAKE OF 1946-49 CIVIL WAR, AS WELL AS INVOLUNTARY HOSTAGES, MOSTLY CHILDREN, WHO WERE TAKEN OUT OF COUNTRY BY COMMUNIST FORCES.

2. EMBASSY LACKS UPDATED STATISTICS AND ASSESSMENT OF SIZE AND ATTITUDES OF THESE GREEK COMMUNITIES AND CURRENT ATTITUDE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS TO REPATRIATION. OUR LAST INFORMATION ON COMMUNITY IN SOVIET UNION WAS 1962 WHEN ESTIMATE WAS 25,000 GREEK CITIZENS RESIDING MOSTLY IN CITIES OF KENTAU AND CHIMKENT IN KAZAKH, AND ANOTHER 25,000 WHOSE CITIZENSHIP CLAIMS DISPUTED BY
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SOVIET GOVERNMENT. LOCAL AND UNOFFICIAL ESTIMATES HERE

PUT GREEK COMMUNITY IN ROMANIA WITH CITIZENSHIP CLAIM
ALSO AT ABOUT 25,000.

3. GREEK MFA VIEWS, WHEN LAST EXPRESSED TO EMBOFFS, BY
THEN HEAD OF FIRST POLITICAL DIRECTORATE (COMMUNIST
EUROPE AND ASIA) PAPAIOANNOU, WAS THAT ONLY INSIGNIFICANT
NUMBERS REMAINED, MAJORITY OF WHOM AFTER SO MANY YEARS
NO LONGER HAD ANY GREEK TIES AND PROBABLY WOULD NOT WISH
TO RETURN.

4. ATHENS WOULD APPRECIATE INR ASSESSMENT DEMOGRAPHY
AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF LEFTIST GREEK DIASPORA AND
COLLATERAL COMMENTS FROM ADDRESSEES.
KUBISCH

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